

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077053
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 SSO-00 SS-15 PA-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00
DODE-00 /076 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. CULLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

-----062358Z 091881 /66

O 062237Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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PAGE 02 STATE 077053

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 077053

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 6

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 6,
1977:

Q. THIS MORNING, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID THAT HE URGED A
DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PALESTINIANS.
HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE U.S. POLICY NOT TO HAVE ANY
CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP UNTIL THEY RECOGNIZE
THE STATE OF ISRAEL, IT'S RIGHT TO EXIST?

A. OUR BASIC POSITION ON THE PLO IS UNCHANGED.

Q. THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT I ASKED.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 077053

A. THE QUESTION IS, HAVE WE HAD A DIALOGUE WITH THEM?

Q. WITH THE PALESTINIANS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q. THEN, LET ME ASK ONE SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION: ARE YOU
NOW DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE PALESTINIANS AND THE PLO?

A. OUR POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIAN MATTER--
PLO AND PALESTINIAN--REMAINS THE SAME AS IN OUR LAST
FORMULATION.

Q. YOU WERE GOING TO PROVIDE THAT FOR US.

A. THAT IS ON ITS WAY TO YOU, THE REQUEST. IT'S COMING
DOWN AND IT WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU.

Q. THERE HAS BEEN A REPORT IN AN EGYPTIAN PAPER THIS MORNING THAT PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRESIDENT CARTER HAVE AGREED UPON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, THE NEED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

A. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE ARTICLE AND I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT WHATSOEVER, BUT I THINK THAT, IN PRESIDENT SADAT'S REMARKS THIS MORNING AND IN THE JOINT STATEMENT YESTERDAY, THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO REFERENCE TO ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

Q. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE HAD ASKED PRESIDENT CARTER TO APPLY PRESSURE ON THE ISRAELIS. HE DIDN'T SPECIFY WHAT HE MEANT, BUT PRESUMABLY HE WAS REFERRING TO THE REPORTED ISRAELI SUPPORT OF CHRISTIAN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 077053

FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON. COULD YOU COMMENT ON THIS? AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THAT ISRAELI SUPPORT?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT. I THINK THAT THAT KIND OF QUESTION SHOULD EITHER GO TO THE WHITE HOUSE OR GO TO THE PRESIDENT.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES NOW INVOLVED IN A DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TOO, WITH SYRIA AS WELL AS ISRAEL, CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. OUR STAND ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IS UNCHANGED. WE CONTINUE TO URGE STABILITY. WE CONTINUE TO TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL PARTIES ARE INFORMED AS TO THE VIEWS OF ALL OTHER PARTIES. AND WE OF COURSE, AGAIN, ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION; BUT I HAVE NOTHING NEW, AS FAR AS ANY PARTICULAR DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRIES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE REPORTS THAT THE SYRIANS SUPPORTED THE ADVANCED PALESTINIAN FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IN RECENT DAYS, BY FIELD ARTILLERY, OR BY OTHER MEANS?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT WHATSOEVER.

Q. BACK ON SYRIA: IN THE PAST, THIS DEPARTMENT HAS SPOKEN FAVORABLY ABOUT SYRIAN EFFORTS TO STABILIZE LEBANON AND END THE FIGHTING. DO YOU STILL THINK THAT SYRIA IS PLAYING A "HELPFUL ROLE" -- I THINK THAT IS THE WAY IT WAS PUT IN THE PAST, A "HELPFUL ROLE?"

OR A "ROLE" IN THE CONFLICT IN LEBANON?

A. WE HAVE NO REASON TO CHANGE OUR POSITION ON THAT AREA.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 077053

Q. SO YOU STILL THINK THAT SYRIA IS PLAYING A HELPFUL
ROLE IN LEBANON?

A. I STILL STAND BY OUR STATEMENT IN THE PAST.

Q. WHICH IS?

A. WHICH IS THAT WE BELIEVE THAT A NUMBER OF THE PARTIES
IN THE AREA ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT STABILIZING
THE SITUATION; AND AS WE HAVE INDICATED, WE BELIEVE THAT
THE SYRIAN EFFORT HAS BEEN POSITIVE.
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